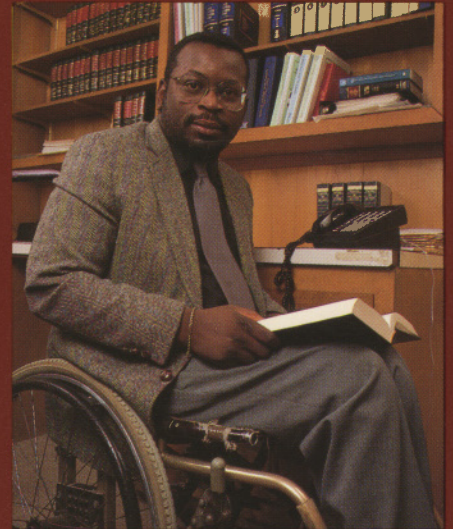


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V O C A T I O N A L R E H A B I L I T A T I O N D E P A R T M E N T

ABOUT THE COVER

As we reviewed our past client files looking for some of our success stories to showcase on the cover of this year's

BREAKTHROUGH, we were overwhelmed, quite frankly, by the impressive lives these individuals lead.

KIM E. ALEXANDER

The photograph on the far left shows Kim E. Alexander, a vivacious brunette who works at Clemson University for the Clemson Extension Service as a program information coordinator for 4-H.

She markets 4-H programs and works in Youth Development. As part of that, and because of her huge personal commitment to the battle against alcohol and drug abuse, she makes alcohol and drug abuse prevention presentations to elementary and high school students.

As a senior in high school, Alexander broke her neck and damaged her spinal cord in an automobile accident.

With the help of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, Alexander graduated from Tri-County Technical College and Clemson University.

Alexander holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Clemson.

LISA ELAINE CASTRO

Lisa Elaine Castro, surrounded in her cover photograph by toddlers, works as a child care assistant at the Children's Corner day care in Roebuck.

The children love Miss Lisa very much and,

as the photograph shows, she dotes on them.

The children pictured here, Corey, Kyle and Will, are just a few of the two-years-old and under children who Castro works with daily.

She reads to and plays with them and just helps make their days at the day care bright.

Castro, 23 and hearing impaired, received counseling and guidance services, adjustment services and on-the-job training from the Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

The department also helped her with the purchase of hearing aids.

Castro, originally from Anderson, graduated from the South Carolina School for the Deaf in Spartanburg and Spartanburg Technical College. While there, she took courses in child care.

PERNELL STARKS

Pernell "Pug" Starks is an attorney in private practice — the firm's name? Starks and Hudson, of course.

Prior to opening his own office, Starks worked with South Carolina Protection and Advocacy for the Handicapped, conducting and supervising legal research for their central and regional offices.

Starks, a paraplegic, was a senior and star athlete at Columbia High School when he was injured.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department provided wheelchairs, personal items and financial assistance for education.

Starks graduated from the University of South Carolina with a bachelor's degree, a

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master's degree and a law degree.

He completed doctoral studies at Arizona State University.

He also teaches at Midlands Technical College.

Photographs of individuals at work, like the ones on the cover, appear throughout this publication.

They show successfully rehabilitated South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department clients — people with disabilities — working.

Our thanks go to their employers for graciously allowing us to come in and photograph them on the job.



McDonald's, Summerville

COMMISSIONER'S LETTER

Dear Employers:

Consider that a Harris Poll published in 1986 revealed that only one in three Americans with disabilities, of working age, has a job and only one in four works full time.

Yet two-thirds of those polled preferred to work and did not want to be dependent on public or private financial resources.

In other words, nearly 19 million people with disabilities are of working age and two-thirds of these people — over 12 million — are not working.

Generally, national surveys indicate that between 10 and 12 percent of Americans have working disabilities.

Here at the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department we estimate that there are about 348,670 South Carolinians with disabilities — many of whom receive some kind of government assistance.

Since these people aren't working and want to work we can all profit.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department works to help both South Carolina's citizens with disabilities and South Carolina's taxpayers by putting these citizens to work. This adds new taxpayers, adds money to the state's revenue and reduces the amount of tax money that the state would have paid these individuals.

However, the department needs your help. Not only do you hire our successfully rehabilitated clients but also you provide contract work for our centers and training

opportunities for our clients.

When you hire our clients, you get job-ready employees — employees who have received extensive training in work skills and good work behaviors. And you often receive tax benefits for employing workers with disabilities.

Those of you already contracting with us find that the centers' clients can not only perform the work required in these contracts but also that their work exceeds your quality expectations and that you save money.

More than 500 South Carolina businesses and industries currently work with the Vocational Rehabilitation Department's work training centers across the state — companies like:

ABB Power Distribution Circuit Breaker Division, Air Products and Chemical Inc., AlSiMag Technical Ceramics Inc., Allied Signal, American Koyo Bearing Manufacturing Corporation, American Yard Products, Angler's Marketing Group, A.O. Smith Water Products Co., Asten Monotech Inc., AVX Corporation, B&G Lieberman Co. Inc., Carlisle Finishing, CCX Fiberglass Products, College Flags, CRYOVAC Packaging/Marketing Systems, Densitron Corporation, Diebold Incorporated, Dina Industries Inc., E.I. DuPont DeNemours and Co., Escod Industries Inc., Ethyl Corporation — Orangeburg Division, Four Seasons Screen Printers, Greenfield Industries, Harper



*The Torrington Company,
Walhalla*



*Internal Revenue
Service,
Columbia*

Design Co. Inc., Hoechst Celanese Corporation, Jacobs Manufacturing Company, Jefferson Smurfit Industrial Packaging Division, Kendall Company, Kleerdex Company, LTK Industries Inc., Maxfli Golf Division, Michelin Tire Corporation, NationsBank, NISH (Fort Jackson Commissary), Oak-Mitsui, Orian Rugs and Company, Ostrow Textile Co. Inc., Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation, Phillips Fibers Corp., Precision Southeast Inc., Professional Medical Products Inc, Robert Bosch Company, Roebuck Machinery Sales Inc., S and W Manufacturing Inc., Sara Lee Hosiery, Schlegel Corporation, Shakespeare Monofilament Division, Siebe North Inc., Siemens Energy and Automation Incorporated, Silkworm Screen Printers Inc., Smith Enterprises Inc., Sonoco Products, South Carolina Box Inc., Southern Packaging Corp., Springs Industries Inc., Square D Company, Trayco of South Carolina, Tupperware Manufacturing, Union Camp Corporation, United States Gypsum Company, U.S.

Alumoweld Company Inc, Velux-America, Velux-Greenwood, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, and Westinghouse Savannah River Company — Savannah River Site,

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department also gives employers the opportunity to offer their own employees an Employee Intervention Program.

Through this program, you help your employees with physical or mental disabilities where behaviors or addiction problems etc., may jeopardize their jobs. Your employees explore ways they can correct those problems and improve their job performance before those problems become too big for them to handle and result in termination.

Please take the time now to read the rest of this magazine.

If you haven't worked with us yet, we hope you will join with us and work to help our citizens with disabilities train for and find jobs.

If you are already working with us, thank you — for you are contributing to the future well-being of South Carolinians with disabilities.

*Joe S. Dusenbury
Commissioner*



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OFFERING A COOPERATIVE SERVICE NETWORK

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates 94 offices across the state made up of:

1. the vocational rehabilitation client services program,
2. the services of the Disability Determination Division, and
3. several related federally funded projects.

Each of these offices provides access to statewide services to people with disabilities — services designed to help them find and maintain suitable employment.

The 94 offices include the following:

- 20 area offices;

- 25 satellite offices;
- 21 work training centers;
- 24 statewide facilities; and
- four Disability Determination Division offices.

To be eligible for services, a person must have a physical or mental disability which impedes his or her ability to work and must require vocational rehabilitation services to overcome the impediment(s).

The person must also be able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services as demonstrated in employment outcome.

1. THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION CLIENT SERVICES PROGRAM

These services help clients with physical or mental disabilities prepare for and obtain suitable employment.

The department accomplishes this by operating a network of offices which include: vocational rehabilitation offices and work training centers throughout the state, two substance abuse/dependence rehabilitation centers, and the Center for Comprehensive Programs in West Columbia which offers an array of services for South Carolinians with severe physical disabilities.

In addition, the department offers services to the deaf and hearing impaired, in-hospital cardiac programs through employee intervention programs and operates cooperative programs with other state agencies, including, among others:



Conway Hospital, Conway

Corrections; Mental Health; Probation, Parole and Pardon Services; Youth Services; Worker's Compensation Commission; and the public schools.

Vocational Rehabilitation Offices and Work Training Centers

The department's offices located across the state, and the 21 community-based work training centers the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates, allow the department to coordinate, develop and provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to South Carolinians with disabilities in their own communities.

Each center, built from the same prototype, combines the area office and a work training center. The centers serve all disability groups and provide vocational assessment as well as personal, social and work adjustment training.

Vocational evaluation provided by the staff at the center includes intelligence, aptitude, interest and achievement testing with hands-on work sample administration, and actual work evaluation. The department uses these methods to identify a client's limitations, assets and employment potential.

The center also provides comprehensive adjustment training which may include personal living skills groups, world of work classes, activities of daily living classes and work adjustment through the utilization of contract activities, academic classes and other services.

Vocational rehabilitation counselors serving

the area's citizens refer clients to the work training center. And most of these clients need adjustment training services to accommodate and/or overcome their vocational disabilities.

The clients benefit from the real-work training experiences which help to develop worker traits that persons with disabilities need to succeed in competitive employment.

Contract work performed for business and industry provides this needed experience.

Specific services offered by the offices and work training centers include:

VOCATIONAL EVALUATION

Once an individual applies to the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, the vocational rehabilitation counselor may arrange for a medical evaluation to identify physical and/or mental disability during the preliminary evaluation phase.

During the comprehensive evaluation phase, the staff identifies those job-related functions the individual can and cannot perform through the use of standardized tests, counseling, work sampling, work evaluation and/or review of past work history.

These thorough diagnostic evaluations provide the Vocational Rehabilitation Department with insight into the person's potential for employment.



Talon Inc., Lake City

The evaluations also provide information needed to determine the nature and scope of services that the person requires to become employed.

Once the staff establishes that the applicant is eligible and requires services from the department, the counselor and the individual use the information gathered during the evaluation to develop an individualized written rehabilitation program — a program of services tailored specifically for that client, leading to gainful employment.

This individualized written rehabilitation program outlines specific rehabilitation services designed to reduce or accommodate the client's vocational disability or disabilities. It takes into consideration the client's medical, social, psychological and vocational needs,

interests, and aptitudes as identified by the evaluation.

COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE

Counseling and guidance services are primarily provided within the counselor/client relationship throughout the entire rehabilitation program.

In addition, all eligible clients receive job development and/or job placement, an evaluation as to need for rehabilitation technology services and follow-up services.

JOB PLACEMENT

All services contribute toward the client's long range vocational goal and job placement.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department considers no client rehabilitated until he or she begins working on a job suited to his or her vocational capacities and physical abilities.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Some clients may require additional services prior to job placement — like adjustment training services, skill training, and/or the provision of artificial appliances.

The department purchases some services based on the client's economic need and other factors.

Adjustment Services

During the client's participation in rehabilitation services, the client may receive one-on-one or group adjustment services, if necessary — classes in which the client works to develop social skills, job interviewing skills, job survival skills, coping skills, and good hygiene skills, for



example — as well as training in the rehabilitation work training center to build work tolerance, endurance, work skills, etc. These services help the client learn to deal with day-to-day situations and problems and learn to get along in the community and on the job.

Skill Training

The department may sponsor, when appropriate, some clients' course work or special skills training through vocational schools, trade schools, technical schools, business schools, colleges or universities — when such course work equips the client with the skills needed to improve his or her manpower marketability should the client be unable to obtain assistance through other sources.

Artificial Appliances

If a client needs a wheelchair, limb, brace, hearing aid, or other kind of artificial appliance in order to perform satisfactorily on the job, the department may help provide these artificial appliances.

Other

In addition, the department may help some clients by providing other miscellaneous services.

For instance, the department may help them acquire occupational licenses, tools, equipment or supplies — if, by providing these services, the department significantly increases their employment or self-employment prospects.

FOLLOW-UP

The department provides follow-up services

to every client placed in gainful employment.

Follow-up services help ensure not only that the client's rehabilitation is successful but also that both the client and the employer are satisfied.

The client's counselor remains available to the client even after that client begins work in order to provide assistance should any problems arise.

Substance Abuse/Dependence Rehabilitation Centers

The department operates two voluntary admission residential centers, Holmesview Center and Palmetto Center, for clients needing inpatient therapy for the misuse of drugs and alcohol.

These centers support the referring vocational rehabilitation field counselors who assume responsibility for follow-up services once the client returns home.

The centers serve as major treatment resources for employed workers in danger of losing their jobs due to substance abuse or dependence problems, and provide a much-needed service for the employee as well as the employer.

Both Palmetto Center and Holmesview Center conduct Community Training Seminars for local professionals and laypersons and operate outpatient and family treatment groups.



*Reidville Road Auto Service,
Spartanburg*



*Jackson Oil Company,
Cheraw*

Vocational rehabilitation counselors and mental health counselors also use the Earle E. Morris Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment Center for clients needing inpatient therapy for

the misuse of alcohol and other drugs. A vocational rehabilitation unit at the center provides clients with comprehensive vocational assessment and personal and social adjustment training services.

All these programs use other community resources such as Alcoholics Anonymous and county commissions on alcohol and drug abuse to augment their effectiveness.

PALMETTO CENTER

Palmetto Center is an inpatient treatment center in Florence for South Carolinians experiencing vocational problems because of alcohol or drugs.

The center provides the following services: group counseling; psychological assessment; medical evaluation and monitoring (24-hour nursing); medical discussion groups with staff, films, etc.; physical fitness programs (including daily planned exercise and nutritional meals to correct diet deficiencies); vocational assessment; vocational counseling and placement; recreational therapy; evaluation of family and social relationships; family therapy; follow-up treatment groups for former residents; and training and/or

consultation for professionals and paraprofessionals.

HOLMESVIEW CENTER

Holmesview Center, in Greenville, is also an inpatient treatment center for clients with alcohol and drug abuse problems. It provides the same services as those listed for the Palmetto Center.

However, Holmesview Center serves only males.

Center for Comprehensive Programs

Innovative services offered by the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department at its Center for Comprehensive Programs in West Columbia provide new opportunities for people with severe physical disabilities.

Here a team of rehabilitation specialists administers thorough client evaluations and provides services such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, recreation therapy, psychological services, rehabilitation engineering services, adaptive aquatics, pain management, and independent living services.

Integrating these services enables the center to offer creative, realistic approaches to vocational rehabilitation.

The following components make up the



Craig Industries, Lamar

Center for Comprehensive Programs: the Barrier-Free Model Home, the Evaluation Center, the Computer Training Program, the Muscular Development Program, the South Carolina Center for Independent Living, and the Rehabilitation Engineering Program.

BARRIER-FREE MODEL HOME

The center features a model home designed and built in 1986 to demonstrate ways people with mobility difficulties might make their own homes more accessible.

The 1,800-square-foot home's entrance, interior and patio are free of architectural barriers. The interior also demonstrates numerous features which make a home more accessible for people with physical disabilities.

For instance, the lowered position of the thermostat and all the light switches, the raised electrical outlets, the added grab bars, and the wide doorways are all part of the design.

Commercially-available appliances, furniture and other devices have been carefully selected to show how easily an individual can make a home more livable for someone with limited mobility and dexterity.

The home is open during normal business hours and by appointment for tours and consultation with a knowledgeable professional.

EVALUATION CENTER

The nucleus of the Center for Comprehensive Programs is the Evaluation Center. This center currently serves up to



30 resident clients from across the state in addition to 20 day clients from the Midlands area.

Budget Tire, Walterboro

In the Evaluation Center, clients undergo intense vocational evaluation in conjunction with other specialized services within the center for the purpose of determining the client's vocational potential.

In addition to a special services coordinator and two vocational evaluators, staff includes an adjustment specialist, a psychologist, two occupational therapists, nurses and dietary staff.

The center also offers a four-week residential/day Pain Management Program and an Industrial Rehabilitation Program.

In the Pain Management Program, individuals who could no longer work or enjoy daily activities because of their recurring pain learn appropriate ways to manage that pain through education, relaxation techniques, exercise and proper body mechanics. The success of this Pain



*Children's Corner,
Roebuck*

Management Program is evident in the number of people who have been able to rejoin the work force and resume a more normal lifestyle.

In the Industrial Rehabilitation Program, the department serves individuals who have recent musculoskeletal injuries. By simulating job tasks and using work-hardening techniques, the program strives to physically condition these individuals so that they can return to work.

COMPUTER TRAINING PROGRAM

The computer training program has evolved from its initial mission, to train people with severe disabilities to work as computer programmers, into a multi-faceted program which simultaneously trains people with severe disabilities in programming, computer assisted drafting and automated office occupations.

The program operates within a modern Vocational Training Center adjacent to an 18-room dormitory for trainees from across the state.

An active Business Advisory Council, composed of business, education and government executives, assists the department in screening candidates, selecting students, developing curricula, evaluating student performance, and placing

trainees in internships and permanent employment.

The Association of Rehabilitation Programs in Data Processing once again honored the program for its 100 percent placement rate for programmer trainees. This is the sixth time this program has received this national award in the eight years the association has presented it.

MUSCULAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Muscular Development Program evaluates clients, trains clients, and improves the physical skills and fitness of clients with physical disabilities in order to enhance their employment potential.

The Muscular Development Center contains state-of-the-art physical therapy equipment, a therapeutic swimming pool, a well-equipped exercise area and a steam room which enable the Vocational Rehabilitation Department to provide a full range of aquatic, physical and recreational therapies as well as exercise physiology.

Aquatic therapy helps individuals who have difficulty exercising in the usual environment because the water provides buoyancy and helps them move and exercise with a greater range of motion. Physical function improvements acquired through aquatic therapy — such as increased strength, endurance, balance and ambulation — all have a direct impact on an individual's ability to handle the various physical requirements of a job.

Physical therapy directs its efforts toward maximizing an individual's physical abilities through various exercise

treatments. The facility's therapeutic resistive exercise equipment, which includes pulley weights, treadmills, exercise cycles and a 16-unit exercise station, contributes toward increasing an individual's strength and stamina.

REHABILITATION ENGINEERING PROGRAM

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department initiated the Rehabilitation Engineering Program in 1987 to assist its vocational rehabilitation counselors by selectively applying engineering skills and technology to help their clients overcome employment barriers related to their disabilities.

Rehabilitation engineering looks at the physical barriers that individuals with disabilities encounter and uses an engineering approach toward helping those individuals on the job or at home.

In this process, the rehabilitation engineer first identifies the client's need(s) related to his or her ability to perform a required task.

Then the engineer applies the appropriate technology to address that need.

Such applications may include the purchase of commercially-available aids and devices or the design and fabrication of custom

devices.

The vocational rehabilitation counselor refers clients to the engineering program for one or more of four primary services: job accommodation, adaptive seating, home accessibility and mobility aids.

One service offered by the program, the Custom Contour Measurement Chair, used in conjunction with a device at the University of Virginia, produces customized seat cushions for individuals with pressure sore problems.

The program operates from a facility which includes clinical work space, staff offices and a complete mechanical shop with fabrication tools.

Deaf and Hearing Impaired Program

The department administers a program for the deaf and hearing impaired which uses specially trained staff members located throughout the state.

These staff members receive extensive training in communication skills for conversing with deaf persons, as well as training in the audiological, psychological and vocational problems of persons with hearing impairments.



*Springs Industries,
Lancaster*



*Docktor Pet Center,
North Charleston*



*Strategic Data Systems,
Columbia*

Cardiac Rehabilitation Program

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, in cooperation with the South Carolina Medical Association and the American Heart Association South Carolina

Affiliate Inc., provides specialized vocational rehabilitation services within cardiac rehabilitation programs throughout the state.

The recovering cardiac patient may find it difficult to return to his old job responsibilities after treatment for cardiovascular disease, or his old job may not be waiting for him because his employer lacks an understanding of heart disease and the limitations an employee may experience after treatment.

A certified cardiac program must include a vocational rehabilitation counselor to provide services that will enhance the patient/client's ability to return to productive activity. Each vocational rehabilitation counselor who works with the cardiac program has expertise in the effects of cardiac disabilities on employment.

Based on the cardiac patient's vocational profile, as well as the medical recommendation of the cardiac rehabilitation team and the client's referring

physician, a prescription for the client's complete rehabilitation is developed.

In addition to providing the usual vocational rehabilitation services, the vocational rehabilitation counselor works with the cardiac patient and helps that patient maintain job stability, identify alternative job opportunities, recognize stress factors on the job, make dietary and lifestyle changes, and even modify behaviors on the job, in recreation and in social situations.

Employee Intervention Programs

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department also provides business and industry with the opportunity to offer their own employees a special Employee Intervention Program.

Through this program, employers provide confidential help to employees whose jobs are jeopardized by disabilities resulting from personal, medical or family problems.

The program works because it helps the employees identify those problems affecting their job performance and helps those employees explore ways they can correct those problems and improve their job performance — before those problems become too big for them to handle and result in their termination.

Cooperative Programs

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates cooperative programs in numerous school districts and institutions of other state agencies.

These programs, located across the state,

allow the department to reach persons with substance abuse/dependence problems, inmates with disabilities, veterans with disabilities, hospital patients, persons with mental illness, and high school and post-secondary level students with disabilities.

IN THE STATE'S CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The department provides vocational rehabilitation services to incarcerated public offenders and ex-offenders with physical or mental disabilities.

The department operates this program in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Corrections and the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services in order to prepare offenders with disabilities for employment.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department, in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Youth Services, also provides rehabilitation services to youths with disabilities within the Youth Services Correctional Facilities.



FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

The department provides services to clients with mental illness from the institutional programs and community agencies of the Department of Mental Health and other service providers.

IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Through cooperative agreements with the Department of Education and local school districts, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department provides rehabilitation services to students with mental or physical disabilities which affect their ability to work. These services ensure their effective transition from school to the adult work world.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department supplies the staff to provide vocational rehabilitation services and to direct program operations as well as additional staff to perform vocational evaluations and hold adjustment classes.

The schools provide space for the programs and certified special education or vocational teachers.

In addition, vocational rehabilitation counselors help with job placement after the students finish high school and after the vocational rehabilitation counselor determines they are ready for the labor market.

At this time, all of South Carolina's school districts have some or all of the four



New Attitude, Anderson

components a comprehensive program can possess:

1. a vocational rehabilitation counselor in the local vocational rehabilitation area office who serves as a liaison between the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the school district and who handles all the district's referrals;
2. an on-site vocational rehabilitation counselor;
3. an evaluation/adjustment specialist; and
4. a work production component.

With or without such comprehensive programs, the department serves all school districts from the area office closest to the district.

2. THE DISABILITY DETERMINATION DIVISION

The Disability Determination Division of

the Vocational Rehabilitation Department processes Social Security disability claims under the provisions of the Social Security Act.

Individuals receive benefits from these programs when physical or mental impairment keeps them from working.

Under both programs, benefits normally continue until the individual recovers or returns to work. Under work incentive provisions now contained in the Social Security regulations, however, an individual who is attempting to return to work may continue to receive benefit payments and medical insurance coverage for an extended period of time.

The disability decision, based on information from the claimant's physician, is made by a team consisting of a professional disability examiner and a state agency medical consultant.

These professional personnel are trained in the careful and objective evaluation of medical and vocational factors under the requirements of the Social Security Act. It is their responsibility to ensure that sound medical evidence is obtained, that vocational factors are considered when appropriate, and that the decision to allow or deny benefits meets all requirements of Social Security law and regulations.

This division operates from regional offices in Charleston, Columbia and Greenville, with a fourth location in West Columbia housing the administrative office and the appeals and state claims unit.

The appeals and state claims unit handles a

number of specialized functions on a wide range of federal and state workloads.

The unit coordinates medical development on claims pending before administrative law judges in SSA offices of hearings and appeals. In addition, hearing officers assigned to the unit conduct face-to-face hearings in claims involving potential termination of benefits. All claims being processed under special provisions resulting from decisions by U.S. District or Circuit Courts are handled in the unit.

In addition, the division processes claims for disability benefits under a number of state programs. Claims for homestead exemptions based on disability are processed for the office of the Comptroller General.

Applications for state retirement based on total and permanent disability are processed by the Disability Determination Division for the South Carolina State Retirement System.

Under the retirement system programs, applications for long term disability are also handled by the division.

The division processes applications for Medicaid coverage under programs administered by the State Health and Human Services Finance Commission. These applications include "Aged, Blind and Disabled," the "Medically Needy," and the "AIDS Waiver" programs.

3. RELATED FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

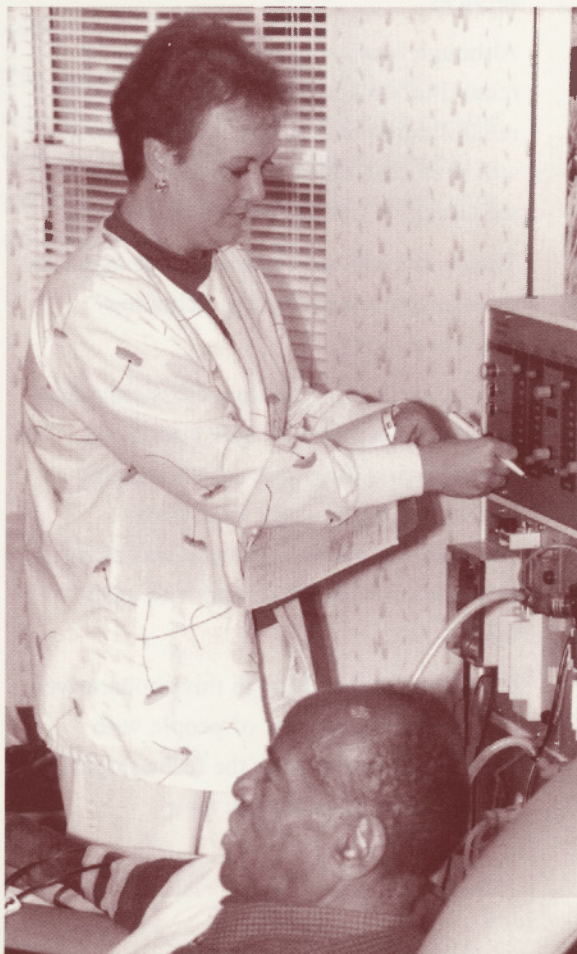
The department operates the Center for

Rehabilitation Technology Services (CRTS) and the South Carolina Assistive Technology Project (SCATP).

Rehabilitation technology, or assistive technology, offers increased personal independence in education, employment, daily living activities and recreation to persons with disabilities.

It involves the use of aids, devices and specialized services to help them perform basic physical tasks like driving, eating or speaking.

Examples of assistive technology devices include adapted toys, computers, communication devices, powered mobility devices, seating systems and special switches.



*Community Dialysis Center,
Aiken*



*Clover Chevrolet-Geo, Center for Rehabilitation
Clover Technology Services*

This research-oriented center will conduct numerous studies on technological approaches to state vocational rehabilitation services.

Although many state vocational rehabilitation agencies in the nation offer rehabilitation technology services, most still seek cost-effective ways to make technology a routine part of the process.

The center will help educate these agencies on effective rehabilitation technology service delivery.

The center is also forming a dissemination network — a group of state vocational rehabilitation directors, administrators, counselors, technology specialists, employers and clients — who will share information with CRTS and with each other.

CRTS hopes that through this cooperative effort a higher number of people with disabilities will receive the technological services they need to gain their

independence through employment.

The department operates CRTS with funding from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, an agency of the U.S. Department of Education.

South Carolina Assistive Technology Project

The federal Technology Related Assistance for Individuals Act provides the opportunity for states to apply for grants to establish programs which provide technology-related assistance to people with disabilities.

As a result, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department was chosen by the governor as the lead agency to coordinate a grant to benefit South Carolinians with disabilities. The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research awarded the grant.

The South Carolina Assistive Technology Project (SCATP) seeks to provide people with disabilities with the technological assistance they need to lead fuller, more productive, lives. People of all ages are eligible.

The SCATP is establishing regional cooperatives throughout the state to work directly with those in need of assistive technology devices and services.

The cooperatives provide evaluations and consultations, hold workshops on technology and help people with disabilities identify funding sources.

The Technology Demonstration Center, a hands-on learning and product review center, features adaptive aids and devices put together for consumers with disabilities, their families and friends, health care professionals and other interested people.

The demonstration center was made possible through funding provided by the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council, the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research and the SCVRD.

South Carolina Center for Independent Living

Funded substantially by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the South Carolina Center for Independent Living serves individuals with more severe disabilities from the four-county target area.

The major objective of the program is to have a positive impact upon the lives of the severely disabled population and their primary care givers. Although most of these individuals have little expectation of securing competitive employment, the program offers services geared toward increasing their independence in activities of daily living, thereby increasing their self-esteem and often decreasing the demand for care givers and attendants.

The Center for Independent Living continues to operate a much-needed and successful equipment loan program.

Complementing services offered by the staff, a group of consumers offers peer counseling. These individuals help plan activities (seminars, etc.) and visit people with disabilities to offer their support.

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income Disability Recipients

Since the beginning of the disability programs, the South Carolina Vocational

Rehabilitation Department has served eligible Social Security disability beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income disability recipients.

With the help of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, many Social Security disability beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income disability recipients with severe disabilities return to the labor market no longer needing Social Security benefits or Supplemental Security Income payments.

Supported Employment

The supported employment program works with individuals for whom traditional rehabilitation services have not been able to secure employment. The program furnishes needed workers and removes many of the employers' normal hiring aggravations and costs.

The supported employment specialists report to the job sites and work side-by-side with the new employees, training them to perform the duties. The employer pays only the employee.

THE DRIVING FORCE



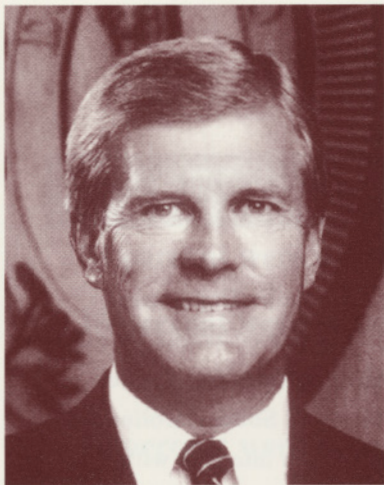
*Kershaw County School
District, Camden*

The South Carolina State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation sets policy under which the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates.

The seven members, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate, serve seven-year terms.

Each member represents one congressional district and there is also one member-at-large.

Joe S. Dusenbury, commissioner of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, serves as agency secretary.



*Carroll A. Campbell Jr.
Governor*



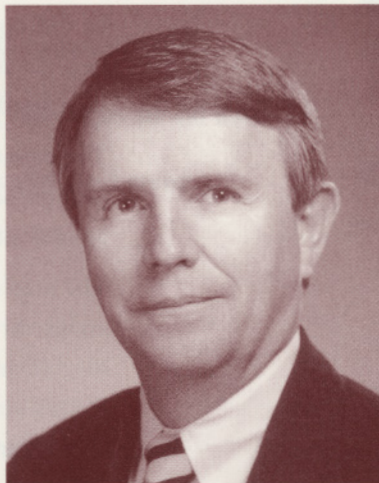
*Joe S. Dusenbury
SCVRD Commissioner,
Agency Secretary*



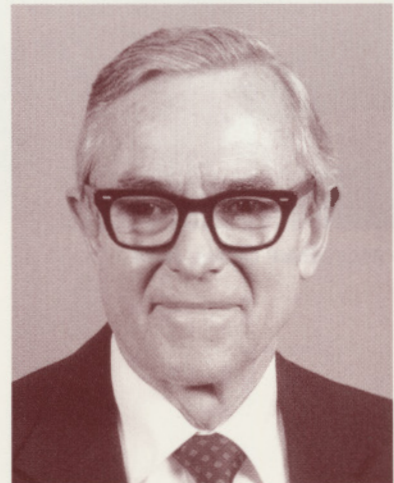
*E. Roy Stone Jr.
Agency Chairman
4th Congressional District*



*Dr. H. Lucius Laffitte
Agency Vice Chairman
Member-at-Large*



*Phillip J. Canders
2nd Congressional District*



*Harry W. Findley
3rd Congressional District*



*H. Allen Morris
6th Congressional District*



*Alease G. Samuels
1st Congressional District*



*J. Hewlette Wasson
5th Congressional District*

DEMOGRAPHICS



Midland Valley Magistrate Office, Bath

Vocational Rehabilitation Department offices strategically placed across the state make vocational rehabilitation services readily available to all South Carolinians with disabilities which interfere with employment. Each of these offices offers the same services — services designed to prepare these citizens for jobs in their communities.

In addition, counselors from these offices help clients in the outlying, less densely populated areas around their offices.

The department makes every effort to provide services to all eligible, working-aged South Carolinians with disabilities.

The map on page 24 gives a county-by-county breakdown of the individuals with disabilities whom the Vocational Rehabilitation Department served and rehabilitated during fiscal year 1991–1992.

The department considers a client rehabilitated only when that client becomes gainfully employed.

OUR 1991—1992 CLIENTS

74 percent were unemployed at referral

15 percent were in tax-supported
institutions at referral

50 percent were dependent on family and
friends for their livelihood at referral

40 percent had less than a 12th grade
education

17 percent were under 20 years of age

42 percent were between the ages of 20 and 34

41 percent were 35 years old and over

63 percent were male

59 percent were white

41 percent were black

.3 percent other racial categories

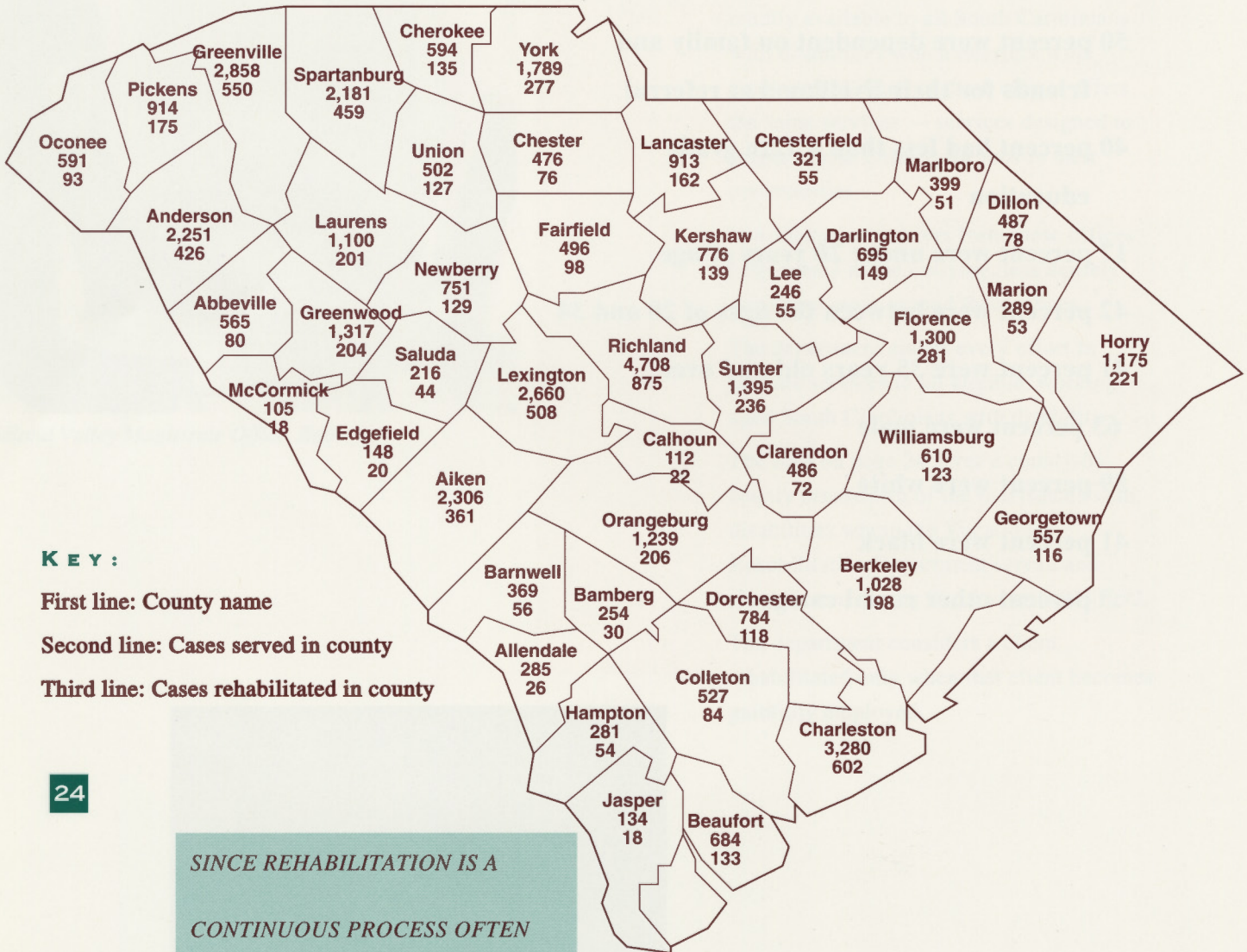
Bausch & Lomb, Greenville



1991 - 1992 COUNTY STATISTICS

Total cases served: 45,154

Total cases rehabilitated: 8,194



KEY:

First line: County name

Second line: Cases served in county

Third line: Cases rehabilitated in county

SINCE REHABILITATION IS A
CONTINUOUS PROCESS OFTEN
COVERING A PERIOD OF YEARS,
THE DEPARTMENT MAY SERVE
SOME OF THE SAME CLIENTS
NEXT YEAR THAT IT SERVED THIS
YEAR.

PRIMARY ENTRANCE POINTS

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's 20 area offices serve as the primary entrance points into the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's program.

Any individual who needs more information about the Vocational Rehabilitation Department or its programs should contact the area office closest to him or her.

A list of the area offices follows.

Aiken:

Serving Aiken, Barnwell and Edgefield Counties

Raymond W. Mizell

855 York St. N.E

(803) 641-7630 (Voice/TDD)

Anderson:

Serving Anderson County

Robert E. Pettigrew

3001 Mall Road

(803) 224-6391 (Voice/TDD)

Beaufort:

Serving Beaufort and Jasper Counties

Constance S. Gardner

Highway 170

(803) 522-1010 (Voice/TDD)

Berkeley-Dorchester:

Serving Berkeley and Dorchester Counties

James N. Benton

2954 S. Live Oak Drive

Moncks Corner

(803) 761-6036 (Voice/TDD)

Camden:

Serving Fairfield and Kershaw Counties

Larry C. Bryant, Temporary Supervisor

15 Battleship Road Ext.

(803) 432-1068 (Voice/TDD)

Charleston:

Serving Charleston County

James N. Benton

4360 Dorchester Road

Charleston Heights

(803) 740-1600 (Voice/TDD)

Columbia:

Serving Lexington and Richland Counties

H. Wehman Sieling

1330 Boston Ave.

West Columbia

(803) 822-5387 (Voice/TDD)

Conway:

Serving Georgetown and Horry Counties

Sally C. Daniel

3009 Fourth Avenue

(803) 248-2235 (Voice/TDD)

Florence:

Serving Darlington, Dillon, Florence and Marion Counties

B. Keith Floyd

West Darlington Street at Jody

(803) 662-8114 (Voice/TDD)

Greenville:

Serving Greenville County and the Easley residents of Pickens County

O.D. Parker

105 Parkins Mill Road

(803) 297-3066 (Voice/TDD)

Greenwood:

Serving Abbeville, Greenwood, McCormick
and Saluda Counties
H. Chris Caver
2345 Laurens Highway
(803) 229-5827 (Voice/TDD)

Lancaster:

Serving Lancaster County
Johnny Dewese
Roddey Drive
(803) 285-6909 (Voice/TDD)

Laurens:

Serving Laurens and Newberry Counties
Charles M. Wilson
Laurens-Clinton Highway 76
Clinton
(803) 833-4121 (Voice/TDD)

Marlboro:

Serving Chesterfield and Marlboro Counties
Larry M. McAlister
1029 Highway 9 W.
Bennettsville
(803) 479-8318 (Voice/TDD)

Oconee-Pickens:

Serving Oconee and Pickens Counties
Lillian N. Rochester
1951 Wells Highway
Seneca
(803) 882-6669 (Voice/TDD)

Orangeburg:

Serving Bamberg, Calhoun and
Orangeburg Counties
John A. Lybrand
780 Joe S. Jeffords Highway S.E.
(803) 534-4939 (Voice/TDD)

Rock Hill:

Serving Chester and York Counties
W. David Smith Jr.
1020 Heckle Blvd.
(803) 327-7106 (Voice/TDD)

Spartanburg:

Serving Cherokee, Spartanburg and Union
Counties
C. Martin Isetts
353 S. Church St.
(803) 585-3693 (Voice/TDD)

Sumter:

Serving Clarendon, Lee, Sumter and
Williamsburg Counties
Emmett W. Tolson Jr.
1760 N. Main St.
(803) 469-2960 (Voice/TDD)

Walterboro:

Serving Allendale, Colleton and Hampto
Counties
William B. Rogers
521 Recold Road
(803) 538-3116 (Voice/TDD)



The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department does not discriminate in the delivery of services or in employment.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department offers equal opportunity in its employment and provision of services without regard to a person's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability in accordance with federal and state law.

Our thanks goes to James N. Benton, South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department staff member, for the photographs he took at Docktor Pet Center in North Charleston and McDonald's in Summerville.

Professional photographer Sam Jones took the cover photographs and Jodi L. Ryall took the photograph at Bausch & Lomb in Greenville.

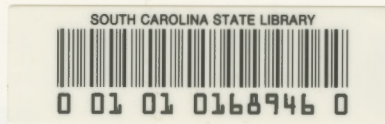
The editors, Mary Beth Meehan Hill and Mark G. Wade, took the remaining photographs.



*Anderson Memorial Hospital,
Anderson*



Voyageur Inn, Waltherboro



For more information about the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department
or vocational rehabilitation services, feel free to contact your local
Vocational Rehabilitation Department office or:

Joe S. Dusenbury
Commissioner

State Office Building

1410 Boston Avenue

Post Office Box 15

West Columbia,

South Carolina 29171-0015

(803) 822-5300

